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USSR

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SUGGESTED PURCHASE OF PROPERTY TO ACCOMMODATE
THE SOVIET CONSULATE-GENERAL IN NEW YORK (1945)

From: NEW YORK

To: MOSCOW

No: 1454, 1455

15 Sept. 55

[Two-part message complete]

[Part I]

[24 groups unrecovered]

[51 groups unrecoverable]

building loses its only remaining protection [ZASHCHITA], i.e. from the direction of the house that has now been sold, in which members of the staff of the Consulate General are living. Moreover in the house which has been sold, according to enquiries we have made, there is going to be a restaurant and bar; it will be very unpleasant for the Consulate General to have this sort of thing next door.

At the present time the building of the Consulate General is surrounded on one side by a well-known hotel, on another by a house empty for 10 years and immediately adjacent to ours, on the third by the bar which is about to open, on the fourth by a group of dwelling houses at a distance of several metres. Under such conditions it is extremely undesirable and without doubt dangerous for us to remain in the house we occupy with all its [dis]inconveniences. Comrades with personal knowledge of our situation can tell you of this in detail.

[22 groups unrecoverable]

Distribution

[Continued overleaf]

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isolation). One of these three can be obtained by us at present; the others are sold. Together with this house, which is situated on the corner of 5th Avenue and 87th Street and which has sufficient accommodation to satisfy all needs for official purposes (about 30 rooms), the two small adjacent houses are for sale (about 45 rooms in both). These could be used as a school and hostel for the staff. The three houses are to be sold only as a single lot. One small house is directly adjacent on 5th Avenue to the main one and could ^{therefore} serve as good protection for the main one. The third house on 87th Street is separated from the main one by 4 metres.

[Part II] The price of the three houses in 1944 was \$325,000, now it is \$400,000 ([1 group unrecovered]). All the money is to be paid at once. For equipment and essential repairs about \$50,000 is needed.

[1 group unrecovered] to make the first payment \$200,000, the remainder in four [2 groups unrecovered] payments, i.e. in four years with four [5 groups unrecovered]. The buildings were purchased by a specially formed "Corporation", which proposes to re-sell them to us taking from us \$200,000 and the remaining \$200,000 [5 groups unrecovered] in New York in the Bank.

[31 groups unrecovered]

by us of the payment due

[25 groups unrecovered]

three persons (our lawyer RECHT^[1] and two others). The procedure is perfectly normal here.

Our broker (GRIGIN)^[11] ([he] 4 groups unrecovered) obtained a promise from the owners of the buildings not to sell them before 23rd September. After that, as at present there is an ever-increasing demand for buildings here, they may be sold to someone else.

With the vacating in December of the hostel we [2 groups unrecovered] with the vacating in August

[32 groups unrecovered]

for understandable reasons cannot be recommended.

It is impossible to find a suitable house to rent.

MEURAJIOV. [111]

Comments: [1] RECHT : Charles RECHT was a NEW YORK attorney who represented Soviet interests in the United States.

[11] GRIGIN : Not known.

[111] MEURAJIOV: Acting Soviet Consul-General in NEW YORK.

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